

NAPA COUNTY.

There was a meeting of the Napa County Medical Society on July 11th, at 2 P. M., at the Veterans' Home. Papers were read by Drs. T. W. Huntington, on "Intussusception"; R. Langley Porter, on "Valuable Therapeutic Measures Often Neglected When Dealing With Sick Children," and Emile Schmoll on "The Indications and Contraindications of the Use of Digitalis."

Dr. Huntington exhibited a femur, which had been fractured at the upper third of the shaft and had united by bony union. This specimen was of interest, as it showed the common displacement of the fragments. A case of abdominal aneurism in a man of 88 years of age was presented by Drs. Bulson and Reinstein.

Letters from Drs. H. Bert Ellis on "Ophthalmia Neonatorum," relating to a meeting to be devoted to the consideration of the same, and Philip Mills Jones on the "Matter of Undertaking the Defense of Our Members in Malpractice Suits." A motion was made and seconded that we obtain further information on this subject of "Malpractice Suits" from the secretary of the State Society.

Dr. Frank Farnum Abbott was elected a member of the County Society.

This was the first meeting of the County Society since January 7th, 1909.

ARTHUR HENRY REINSTEIN, Secretary.

SONOMA COUNTY.

The Sonoma County Society met in regular session on August 6th, at Dr. G. W. Mallory's office, Santa Rosa. There were only a few of the members present, who remained till 12:10 A. M. discussing medicine.

By motion it was agreed that the "delegates" had done a noble thing for the members of the Medical Society of the State of California in bringing to their attention the subject, "Physician's Defense," and that beginning January 1, 1910, the members of Sonoma County Society are willing to pay an extra dollar for the defense fund. There are four good reasons why the Medical Society of the State of California should establish a defense fund, namely:

First—It will unite the members and get them closer together.

Second—This defense clause will bring many able men into the County and State Societies. Thus all improve intellectually, numerically, morally and spiritually—medically.

Third—The plan not to pay judgments, but to employ counsel (the best) is a better method than that employed by some of the companies—defense—who agree to pay claims or judgments to certain amounts—\$1000 to \$25,000 for from \$10 to \$100 annually.

If a juror knows that a corporation will have to pay the damage he will be more likely to find the M. D. guilty; for the average juror has not much love for corporations, thus injuring the whole profession by holding one of its members a malfactor.

Fourth—Truth is the foundation of every virtue. Medicine is founded on truth. We should be willing, if we, through lack of the truth, the knowledge, make a mistake which interferes with the lifework of a patient to pay for this lack. There's no excuse, for information may be had if we put our shoulders to the wheel and study and think—think.

This defense clause will give us the perfect ideal, as it were; each M. D. will have to answer for his own acts. The Sonoma County Medical Society is in favor of the defense clause being added to our State constitution. Our next meeting will be held at Eldridge, and Dr. W. J. G. Dawson will give us one of the best clinics our society has ever had.

The train will leave Santa Rosa at 2:45 P. M., and return at 7:10 P. M., September 3rd, 1909.

Dr. R. A. Forrest presented a paper, "A Month's Work in the Country." He detailed many cases like but very different from the following:

"Removal of piece of fine sewing needle in the ball of the foot in a woman 35 years old. Constructing bandage placed about instep and ankle to control blood circulation. Local anesthesia produced by hypodermic injection of 2/5th gr. cocaine, at 3 or 4 points about seat of operation. Incision 5/8th inch long, 1/3 inch deep by side of point of greatest discomfort. Foreign body invisible to high magnifier. Body removed by curetting thoroughly its supposed location. Although this alleged foreign body was never found, the proof of its removal could not be denied, from the fact that the operation maneuver employed gave perfect satisfaction to the patient. The result was a speedy relief of all symptoms. This mode of procedure was deemed preferable to the 'do nothing' treatment, which at times would be justified in cases where an operator would be working in the dark in dangerous locations, without the aid of the Roentgen Ray. The X-Ray in this case would be useful as a last resort. But in patients whose means are somewhat limited, we are bound to see that they are saved as much expenditure of time and money as possible. A piece of steel, if allowed to remain in the tissues, may do great harm; it may get entangled in fascia or tendons in the neighborhood of joints or it may become the center of suppuration ending in its expulsion. It may cause general infection or tetanus."

Dr. Forrest said in treating a case of diphtheria that he gave anti-toxin to patients in 5000 units 12 hr. after he had given 3000 and the 17-year-old girl recovered in a few days. He also gave immunizing doses of 500 to the attendants.

Dr. R. Bonar on discussion thought that owing to the idiosyncrasies that are found, have been found, he would rather take the chances of the other children getting diphtheria than to give them the immunizing dose of anti-toxin and run the risk of spasms, etc.

Adjourned at 12 o'clock.

G. W. MALLORY, Secretary.

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of Some of the Recent Advances in Tropical Medicine, Hygiene and Tropical Veterinary Science. Supplement to the Third Report of the Welcome Research Laboratories at the Gordon Memorial College, Khartoum.—Balfour and Archibald.

Attempting to review a review is a good deal like trying to make a word picture of a dictionary. The careful work of Balfour and Archibald in thus collecting between two covers the gist of the more recent advances in Tropical Medicine, Hygiene and Tropical Veterinary Science comes as a pleasant relief in these days of medical tautology and reiteration. Although written "with special reference to medical sanitary and veterinary work in the Anglo-Egyptian Soudan," the work contains much of interest to sanitarians, both of the tropical and temperate zones. The reviews of the recent literature on dysentery, enteric fever, paratyphoid fever and plague will especially commend themselves to the medical profession in California. The book is well bound and is printed in clear type on good paper. There is a surprisingly small number of typographical errors. Great judgment has been shown in the collection of sound practical papers so as to present in small compass the most important recent discoveries in the subjects treated.

R. B.